

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
August 27, 2012**

PRESENT: Michael J. Retzky, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Andrea L. Shorthose, Member

GUESTS: Cricket Neighbors: Heather Yountz, Dan Shapiro,
Sue Owen

The meeting convened at 7:02PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meetings August 13, 2012:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2012 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey commented on the wonderful welcome home celebration for Olympic Gold Medalist Aly Raisman held on Sunday, August 26, 2012. Ms. Carey will email the Commissioners a few dates she is available to tour the Greendale Trail for whoever would like to attend.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** none presented.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **NSTAR Vegetation Management:** Mr. Jacob noted the NSTAR vegetation Management program has been temporarily halted. No tree clearing will take place until further notice.
 - B. **Community Preservation: Possible Projects under Recreation Category:** Ms. Carey reviewed the informal listing of possible project priorities. Mr. Retzky spoke to the School Committee Chair Heidi Black about using Community Preservation funds to renovate the Newman School Fields. He suggested she speak to the School Committee members about the need to renovate the fields at Newman School.

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The Commissioners agreed the priority for Community Preservation funds is as follows: 1. Newman Fields Renovation; 2. Greene's Field Renovation; 3. Cricket Field House Renovation; 4. Bay Colony Rail Trail; 5. Rosemary Pool.

C. Ridge Hill Working Group Report: Ms. Carey shared the Ridge Hill working group report from Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Ms. Carey and Mr. Jacob both served on the Ridge Hill Working Group. In 2007 the Board of Selectmen entered into an agreement with the Conservation Commission to not change the use of the 3 acre parcel from senior center use to another use without approval of the Conservation Commission, as the Commission had agreed to give up the parcel for the senior center use. Ms. Carey indicated when she, Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Retzky recently met with the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen Jerry Wasserman and Dan Matthews they talked about designing a similar agreement with the Park and Recreation Commission regarding Greene's Field, so that the Commission would have a formal role on decisions made regarding Greene's Field.

D. Projects with DPW: Ms. Carey reported the Parks and Forestry Department is working on fields at Memorial Park and they are repairing damage caused by Bay State Football during the summer clinic on Conroy Field. Bay State Football is paying for the required repairs. The sodding contracts have been signed and the work is currently being scheduled. The Parks and Forestry staff is busy getting the fields ready for the fall high school and youth sports. Ms. Carey and Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen have met to update the list of capital project requests. The storage building at DeFazio is going out to bid next week. Mr. Jacob remarked about the damage at Pollard Field and DeFazio Fields caused by someone driving an ATV on the fields. He suggested installing bollards to prevent vehicles getting on to the fields. Mr. Retzky shared his appreciation for the work of the Parks and Forestry Superintendent and his staff.

E. Fall Field Scheduling: Ms. Carey shared the fall field permit list and list of fall special events. Mr. Diccico expressed concern that Junior Football is practicing at Claxton Field. He indicated they should be able to practice at Memorial Park which is a football field and at DeFazio because there are goal posts that can be installed and removed after the football season. Football is a one season sport and they should have field priority.

F. Rosemary Pool: Ms. Carey reported that after a very successful summer with an increase in daily attendance, Rosemary Pool is closed for the season. Ms. Carey is working with Public Facilities Director Steve Popper on the Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study.

G. 2009 Newman Fields Report: Ms. Carey shared the 2009 report created by Weston and Sampson, so that all current members would understand the concept.

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On August 30th a Community Preservation Committee summit is scheduled with members of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Conservation Commission, Housing Authority, Park and Recreation Commission and the Historical Commission. One of the projects that will be discussed is the renovation of Newman's fields and the adjacent Eastman Conservation area.

5. Action Items:

A. Special Event Request: Community Center of Needham: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Special Event Request to host a labyrinth at Greene's Field as part of the Luminary Night on Sunday, November 4, 2012 from 4:00PM-7:00PM, with the provision that only artificial candles may be used at Greene's Field. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

B. Refund Request: Shaughnessy: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the refund request submitted by Carolyn Shaughnessy. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved 3-1 in favor of the refund.

C. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket): Mr. Retzky noted he spoke to the School Committee Chair Heidi Black and she informed him that the Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study Statement of Intent cannot be submitted to the Commonwealth until January 2013. Mrs. Chaston stated she would like to look ahead and have the Commissioners discuss the possibility of using Cricket Field as a staging area for the Hillside School renovation in case the Commission is faced with this question.

6. Topics for future Agendas: Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket)

7. Adjournment: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24PM. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director